

Vernon County Agricultural and Extension Education Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2016

11:00 a.m. – Erlandson Building – UW- Extension Conference Room

Chairman Kevin Larson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the UW-Extension Conference Room. Present were: Larson, Beitlich, Johnson, Mitchell, Easterday, Pulvermacher, Cook-Fuglsang, and Traastad.

The public meeting notice was emailed to the Vernon County Broadcaster and Vernon County Computer Department and faxed to the County Clerk on March 31, 2016.

Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded, to approve the minutes as sent. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting date for the committee is set for June 9, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in the UW-Extension Conference Room.

No visitors from the public were in attendance.

Committee reviewed March expenses. Beitlich moved, Easterday seconded to approve the March 2016 Office Operations expenses of \$2717.87. **Motion carried.**

Johnson moved, Easterday seconded to approve the March 2016 Teen Court expenses of \$782.98. **Motion carried.**

Phil Hewitt attended and discussed changes in Erlandson Building custodial care as Phil Russell will be retiring. He will propose a new position with mechanical and electrical license requirements for it.

Cook-Fuglsang reported on WI Nutrition Education Program for January – March 2016 activities.

-Overview of the last couple of months, wrapping up schools and working with Living Faith Food Pantry.

-Shared updated results of teacher and parent surveys to date measuring behavior change and teacher effectiveness.

Pulvermacher reported on March-April 2016 activities: Colleen discussed the top eight things going on.

1) The issue of inconsistent attendance of 4-H members has come to the forefront. Most county 4-H programs across the state have minimum attendance requirements for 4-H members to be considered in good standing. The Vernon County 4-H Parent/Leader Federation strives to ensure that 4-H membership has meaning and value, and it is not simply a means to show at the fair, get a discount on camp registration or show at state fair. A bit of background, there are 16 4-H clubs and 9 of them have some attendance requirement, and these vary widely in expectation. A county wide attendance policy, if passed, would take effect in the 2016-2017 4-H years. The 4-H Leader

Parent Federation values family input on establishing a minimum countywide attendance policy of 50% attendance at club meetings per year. This will not overrule current requirements a 4-H club has in place, unless the 50% requirement is more than what a 4-H club currently has in effect. The clubs have a right to set more stringent requirement if they choose. 4-H families need to understand that this policy change may impact their children's eligibility to show at the Vernon County and State Fairs as a 4-H member. The Federation mailed letters to 243 families and received 52% back, with the majority (81%) supporting a 50% minimum meeting attendance requirement. At the Leader Retreat this issue was also discussed, because it impacts 4-H club leaders in that they are the ones to deal directly with the families if youth are not in good standing or questions arise. There was a good discussion and overall a sense that the 50% minimum meeting attendance rule would take the pressure off clubs to have their own attendance requirements. At the April Federation meeting this issue came up for a vote and was passed unanimously.

2) When volunteers begin with the 4-H program a background check is done at the state level. Every four years thereafter another background check is done. This process is now being done at the state level and the background check itself is on a national scale. This process means that our volunteers being rechecked are being contacted by the state 4-H office for their social security number to do these checks. Colleen reported that she sends out letters explaining the change in this process to volunteers impacted. She also explained this process at the recent Leader Retreat.

3) Colleen has been on the state volunteer orientation redesign team for all UW-Extension volunteers –Master Gardeners, 4-H, Master Food Preservers, HCE, etc. This training consists of a 1.5 hour face to face class AND a 1.25 hour online mandated reporter training. Colleen has taught this training now several times and often a question arises for people who are already mandated reporters, such as teachers, social workers, nurses, etc. Colleen explains that this training requires the specific UW-Extension mandated reporter training component, there are no exceptions. This is to ensure safety for our children. She clarified that it is no different than when she teaches religious education, as a teacher, she has already been background checked, has taken mandated reporter training and yet she still completes the online training from the LaCrosse diocese.

4) Around the region: La Crosse, Richland, Iowa, Grant, Jefferson, Dane all have decreasing 4-H Youth Development staff due to people moving on to other jobs or retiring.

5) I got an "A," as in Influenza A and it was miserable....missed 3 days of work and had an awful Easter weekend.

6) We have six applicants for the Summer Assistant position. Interviews are scheduled for tomorrow, with help from Karen and Sheena.

7) We have 13 camp counselors from Crawford, Richland and Vernon County. Three late applications – (several weeks late) which provided an opportunity to speak with youth about getting things in on time and re-evaluating priorities if youth are feeling overwhelmed.

8) Teen Court has served six youth in the last two months.

Traastad reported on Family Living for January – March 2016 activities.

- Promoted and coordinated the Winter Session of Strong Women programs where 30 participants attended in the Viroqua class, 21 participants attended in the Westby class, and 19 participants attended in the Chaseburg Strong Senior Program.
- Participated in the Caregiver Support Coalition by promoting and teaching the 6-week course “Powerful Tools for Caregivers”. Class will start April 14, 2016 using a newly revised curriculum.
- Was contacted by Laura Pettersen from Scenic Rivers AHEC organization to conduct a poverty simulation event for college students pursuing healthcare careers. Will work with Sonya to locate the Food Challenge Event package in order to offer this event in Viroqua in May.
- Attended the Southwest Regional Training on February 25th & 26th in Madison.
- Took vacation time to welcome a new grandchild into the family.
- Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Agreement:

Beitlich moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program Agreement with Vernon County. **Motion carried.**

Traastad reported on Department Head activities.

- ❖ Met with Vernon County Dairy Promotion Committee to start the planning process of the 2016 Dairy Breakfast. Along with Jim Servais, visited the Ocooch Dairy farm owned by Jim Mlsna in February and held the first public planning meeting in Hillsboro in March.
- ❖ Coordinated and publicized the Pesticide Applicator Training for Vernon County farmers. Arranged for State Specialist, Glenn Nice, to be the trainer for two sessions on February 19th and March 21st. Fifty- nine farmers attended and tested for the required certification needed to spray their properties.
- ❖ Worked with Monroe County Ag Agent, Bill Halfman and State Organic Produce Specialist, Erin Silva to offer a regional workshop in Viroqua. Coordinated the Vernon Memorial Health Center meeting facilities for the program. About 25 produce farmers attended.

Easterday moved, Beitlich seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Minutes submitted by: Karen Ehle-Traastad